

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Claims 1, 2, 4-14, 17-19 and 24-28 and 30 are pending. Claims 13, 14, 28, and 30 are hereby amended, thereby obviating the 101 issue. The Title has also been amended.

Applicants submit herewith a certified English translation of Japanese Application No. 2000-183770 filed on April 21, 2000, which provides an enabling disclosure for the currently pending claims. Specifically, pages 16-18, 40-43, 71-73 and figures 16, 23 and 42. Applicants respectfully submit that the April 21, 2000 filing date is prior to the earliest effective filing date of U.S. patent No. 6,556,773 to Tsumagari (hereinafter, merely "Tsumagari"). Therefore, Tsumagari is not prior art and Applicants respectfully request the rejections based on Tsumagari be withdrawn.


CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By



Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800